

# THE OLD TIMER'S BULLETIN

OFFICIAL JOURNAL, ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

Published for the Old Time Wireless Operator, Historian and Collector

Vol. 5

SPRING - 1964

No. 1



QSL from Stewart Perry acknowledging W2AN's historical contact, March 29.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF ELECTRICITY is the name of the huge \$15 million museum being erected near Schenectady. To be completed by 1970, it will be one of the largest of its kind in the world. Exact location is Niskayuna, N.Y. near the Mohawk River and old Erie Canal.

All phases of electricity will be on display - past, present and future. As an example, there will be a Radio Planetarium ! As a nucleus for its historical exhibits, the Museum has obtained the historical collection of the Electrical Historical Foundation, considered the finest in the country after the Dearborn and Smithsonian collections.

(Irvin Weir, K2POI)

ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION  
presents

OLD TIMER'S BUFFET LUNCHEON

and demonstration of

EARLY TRANSMITTERS & RECEIVERS

at the Western New York Hamfest

Saturday, May 23, 1964

Rte. 15, south of Rochester

OT "Bill" Halligan - Honored Guest

TYPE "D" TUNER - was the receiver in the photo on page 3 of the last Bulletin. (Ed Cummings at New England Wireless Museum)

## FLASH ! DX RECORD MADE !

LOWER POWER RADIODPHONE  
SIGNALS COPIED 400 MILES !

The above would be headlines 42 years ago - and so it is again today. On Sunday, Mar. 29 at 8:15 P.M. W2AN's radio-phone signals were copied loud and clear by WLBB. We heard Stew calling CQ on CW. Firing up the 1922 transmitter and carefully adjusting a 43 plate condenser in the hartley oscillator near his wavelength, we gave him a long call. He came right back as gave us 59PDC. We then switched to phone as rcvd a report of "loud and clear !" - quality "only fair !" Input: 600 volts at 60 mills or 36 watts....Here is the story...

It was decided to build the oldest licensed phone transmitter in the U.S. To meet F.C.C. regulations, the xmtr had to be a MOPA - not a modulated oscillator. Neither could it be crystal control- which didn't come out until several years later.

Digging through the club's museum enough parts were found to make up a hartley oscillator using a UV-202, a UV-202 buffer and a UV-203 RF amplifier. On the voice side we assembled a UV-201 speech driving a UV-202 into a single UV-203 heising modulator - and of course, a Federal SB carbon mike. Many of the components are of the early RCA/GE amateur line so popular in 1922. Going to the local 5 and 10¢ store we purchased 36 large tumblers for the chemical rectifier - and we were in business.....

Since transmitters of this period were still operating on 200 meters it wasn't too difficult to tap down on the flat helix coil to our present 160 meter band. Only two modifications were made - the R.F. amplifier was neutralized (neutralization was not common until after the mid 20's) and an antenna coupler was placed between the antenna to prevent

harmonic radiation.

Although we have a fair supply of the older tubes, all initial experimenting and tuning was done with UX-210's and 211's. Original 202's and 203's are too rare to experiment with! In fact, acquiring these early tubes in operable condition may be the stumbling block why others haven't built early transmitters. Incidentally, the UV-202's really light up with amazing brilliancy as compared with modern tubes.

No real problems were experienced in getting the rig on the air. To minimize such problems - only 250 volts was applied to the 202's and 600 volts to the 203's. The CW signal proved to be FDC with a very faint "bur" sound from the sizzling jars; however, a very definite hum (but not objectionable) could be heard when the modulator was in the circuit due to the additional load on the power supply - in fact, it was fascinating to watch the little sparks jumping around in the jars! An ESCO MG set is available for filaments but was not used in the original tests.

A Grebe receiver is normally used. A 201 was first tried as a detector but was soon replaced with a 200 with a lower plate voltage to obtain smoother regeneration. We might add that tuning one of these old receivers with a varometer is quite a challenge after a modern super.

A 30 year old National receiver from Russ Worthy was used for "standby".

Needless to say, hand capacity and frequency change was noticeable in both the hartley oscillator and the regen receiver; however, the oscillator was surprisingly stable when your hand was removed. The antenna at the club's museum is an old fashion 2 wire flat-top between 60 to 70 feet in the air and 210 feet in length. 4 wires each approximately 140 feet long converging to a common point act as a counterpoise.

The operation of this pioneer station (W2AN) is a historical milestone in amateur radio. No definite schedules have been set but when in operation it can be heard near 1808 kc. with either code or voice transmissions. (photo in next Bulletin.)

WEST COAST MUSEUM - several have called our attention to a newspaper story covering a "pro" museum in California. As a "news" Bulletin we would like to review the article, however, we're afraid we would be swamped with critical "first" letters. If you read the story you will know what we're talking about. Nuf sed..

## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBERS

A.W.A. members have been concerned for sometime over the housing of the member's equipment. A solution may be in sight.

As most of you know, our Secretary, W2ICE, has graciously donated the use of his two story carriage barn for this purpose for several years. This followed since he had the facilities and was the principal owner of equipment; however, he and the rest of us find there is now a need to find bigger and better quarters.

The local Chamber of Commerce as well as the County Historian are deeply interested in our venture. At a recent meeting of the Chamber it was unanimously agreed to obtain a building which would house the town library and the club's museum.

Officers and several Board Members have viewed a building which is under consideration. It is the former village school and Town Hall and now the Grange Building. It is a well built brick structure and outwardly has all the appearances of a historical building in a pleasant setting of large trees and lawns.

If the program materializes, the A.W.A. will have the large exhibit hall on the second floor. As an organization, we will have full responsibility of all equipment, exhibits, etc. I feel it is a step in the right direction.

73, George Batterson, W2GB  
President

### 2ND NATIONAL MEET

Amateur Historians, Collectors and Pioneer Operators.....

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1964

East Greenwich, Rhode Island

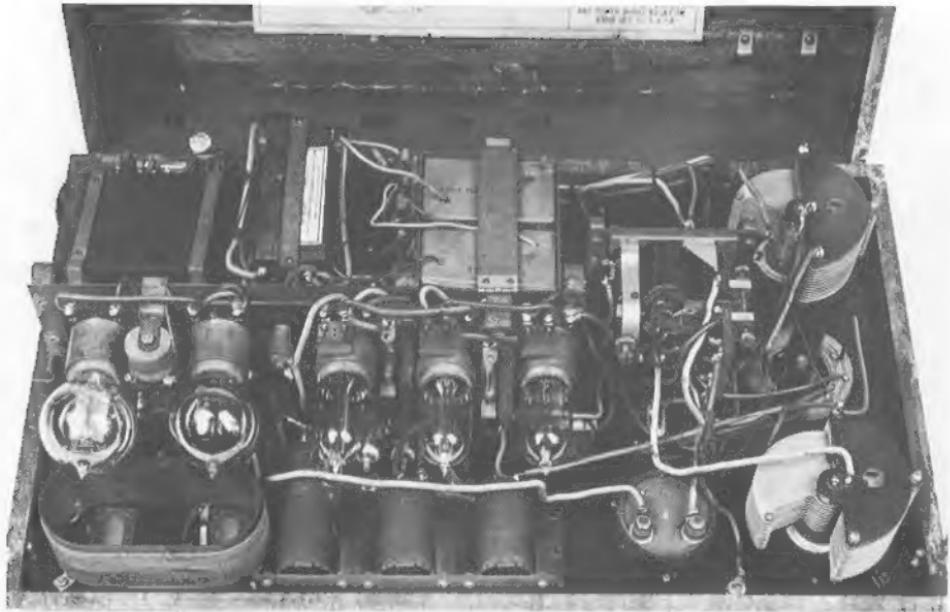
New England Wireless Museum  
Hosts: Bob and Nancy Merriam, WLNT

This "get-to-gether" promises to be bigger and better than ever. The program will look something like this:

- 10 A.M. Swap old gear, tubes, books, etc.
- 12 Noon Luncheon
- 2 P.M. Report from Historians
- 4 P.M. Program for old time commercial wireless operators.
- 5 P.M. Old Time Receiver and Transmitter demonstrations.
- 6 P.M. Banquet (Pioneer speakers to be announced.)

There will also be a program Friday Evening for the early birds and a get-to-gether Sunday morning.

More details in Summer Bulletin.



#### WWI RADIO TELEPHONE SET BC-13A

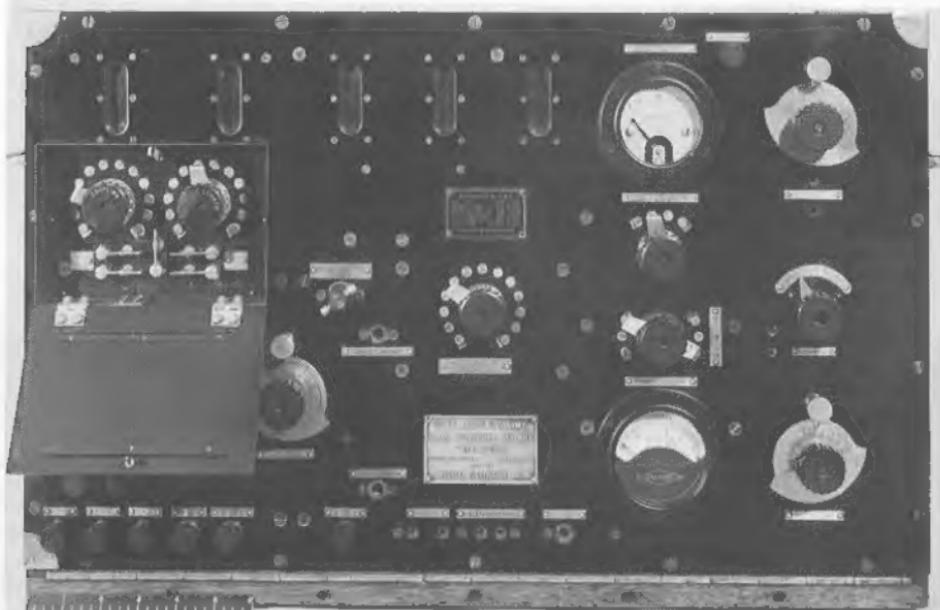
The fotos are of a well known WWI set available on the surplus market in the 1920's. It bears a resemblance to the CW-936.

The BC-13A is a part of the Ground Radio Telephone Set SCR-67A. The transmitter tunes from 250 to 450 meters and uses a single VT-2 as oscillator and another as modulator. The receiver

tunes from 200 to 800 meters using a VT-I detector and 2 step audio also using VT-1's.

Of particular interest - the "B" batteries used in the receiver (Type BA-2) are still a standard item in the Signal Corp Inventory - after 46 years !

This nice piece of gear is the property of OOTC Secretary Earl Williams, W2EG. (Tnx to Bill Gould, K2NP)





COAST GUARD PRESENTS AWA  
WITH WWI KW SPARK RIG

One of the newest and finest acquisitions of AWA is a Marconi quench-gap spark kilowatt presented by the United States Coast Guard station NMH-K4CG, Cdr. Frank Barnett, commanding. The presentation was arranged by Cdr. Ed Reddington (Ret.), W4ZM, who is seen here on the right, accepting the transmitter in behalf of AWA. The inscription reads: "Presented to the Antique Wireless Association-W2AN by the U. S. Coast Guard Radio Station NMH-K4CG, Alexandria, Virginia."

The rig is in fine condition. The frequencies used were 300, 600 and 952 meters. It was one of those turned out for the Coast Guard at the start of WWI by the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America, later to become part of RCA.

Of course, you don't whisk these rigs around the country in the rumble seat, so George Batterson, W2GB, is going to give it a spare corner in one of his big over-the-road motorized freight cars the next trip to Washington. (Note: If you're going to start a club to collect 1,500 pound transmitters, be sure your president is a trucking tycoon!) We hope to be there with a camera so we'll have some more pix next issue.

NEED - #66 transformer and Instruction book for Federal #61. F.A. Nichols, W9AKH, 720 E. Eldorado, Appleton, Wis.

**CLAPP BOOK COLLECTION** - Jim Clapp, W4AU, is donating a collection of historical books to the club's archives. The list appears attractive and will be of interest to amateur historians.

As a reminder, all books in the club's library are available for reference purposes. If you are seeking technical information, circuits, dates, etc., drop either W2QY or W2ICE a self-addressed envelope with your problem.

Books are normally not loaned out, however, on special occasions they may be obtained for research purposes. The library has proven to be an excellent source to identify old gear and on several occasions students have used books for their thesis. A complete listing is available on request.

**FIRST BROADCAST STATION** - a very controversial subject with many claims. If interested, suggest you see the March issue of IEEE "Spectrum" magazine and look on page 304.

Our friend, Lloyd Espenschied, summarizes the situation in a brief and understanding manner which should once and for all close the subject. Briefly, Lloyd states it is somewhat a matter of definition. It almost fits in the same class as "Who discovered radio?".....

The same issue had another of its historical series. This time "Birth of the Amplifier" - an interesting description of the first use of the DeForest triode as an amplifier - mainly in telephone work with comments from Messers Alfred Goldsmith and John Stone Stone (1914).

"**CATHODE PRESS**" a publication by the Machlett tube company, recently had a fine article on historical radio tubes owned by Paul Watson. The story is well written and has several clear illustrations. Suggest tube collectors try and get a copy...It is the December, 1963 issue, Vol.20, No.3....(Thx W3QA, W4ZM es KBUZ)

**W3QA VLF** - W8FX and many others have built the converter described by Bruce Boyd in the July '61 issue of "73" Magazine. "Tate" says it is one of the best VLF receivers he has tried.....

**FOR SALE** - Freed-Eisemann, Radiola V, Atwater-Kent, Handbooks, Manuals, Edison cylinder phonograph and other items. Jessie York, Box 130, Downsville, N.Y.

**SWAP or SELL:** Federal 59, Federal Ortho-sonic "H", Freed-Eisemann NR-5, Arbor-phone 27, Kellogg 507 chassis, Atwater-Kent #10 breadboard. Make offer. Frank Pagano, 1835 West 7th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223

### "THE OLD TIMER'S BULLETIN"

A news bulletin printed for members of the Antique Wireless Association.  
Editor: Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, ex-W8ACY  
Pub. Editor: Larry Triggs, W2YBK  
Published at Holcomb, N.Y.

### ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

A.R.R.L. Affiliate

An organization documenting the history and technology of wireless and the work of its pioneers.

President: George Batterson, W2GB  
Vice-Pres.: Lincoln Cundall, W2QY  
Secretary: Bruce Kelley, W2ICE  
Directors: Clarence Dengler, W2IK  
Charles Brelsford, W2CTA  
Larry Triggs, W2YBK  
Kenneth Gardner, W2BGN

### Club Station: W2AN

Annual Dues: (including the "Old Timer's Bulletin", certificate and other benefits) - \$2.50 per year payable to Club Treasurer-

Lincoln Cundall, W2QY  
69 Boulevard Parkway  
Rochester 12, N.Y.

HARVARD NAVAL RADIO SCHOOL 1917-18 bring back memories? If so, you may remember Charles Henry, head of the "16 Week Theory" course given at the school.

Charles is a new member of the A.W.A. and would like to correspond with old friends. He tells us after Harvard he worked under Lt. Washington out of Boston Yard from Canada to Hatters as a d.f. expert. Later E.E. at M.I.T. where he studied under Dr. Kennelly. A rare item in his possession is some "sound-on-film" (optical track) which Dr. Lee De Forest gave him while at his NYK Studio in 1926. If you know your movie history - this film is rare!

INTERIOR WCC - we hear thru Jim Clapp, W4AU, that W2EXM is now working on a scale interior of WCC showing all equipment - a real challenge Fred!

Jim remembers visiting the old Thunder Factory back in 1914 - when the wind was right he could hear the gap miles away.....

FOR SALE - entire antique collection of deceased W6ORA. Send self-addressed stamped envelope for list. Paul Giganti, 2429 San Carlos Ave., San Carlos, Calif.

### PASSING OF AN ERA - W1ZE

Irving Vermilya, W1ZE is a silent key. The passing of this pioneer wireless man is a poignant harbinger of the end of an era.

"VN" started in the game shortly after the turn of the century when he heard about Marconi's transmission of the letter "S". A few years as an amateur and then into the commercial game and eventually the manager of the famous station at South Wellfleet was only the start...

Following WWI he was stationed at Marion, however, he soon broke away and pioneered in early broadcasting, building and operating one of the first broadcast stations in New England. This not being enough, Irving also set-up one of the first police radio stations in the country. He was associated with broadcast work until his retirement a few years ago.

W1ZE is best known, however, as a pioneer amateur. From the earliest days in Yonkers until the very day of his death, "VN" was a radio amateur. Anecdotes of early spark days back in 1906, 1HAA, the huge fan type antenna, the Trans-atlantic tests, A.R.R.L. Conventions, the power house on 75, all remind one of the "Old Timer at Mattapoisett". The "Morse Gang" now have one less member to call in; when Thursday night rolls around and you tune in on 3940 and listen to the OOTC Net, there will be one missing - 1ZE with the familiar clock ticking in the background.

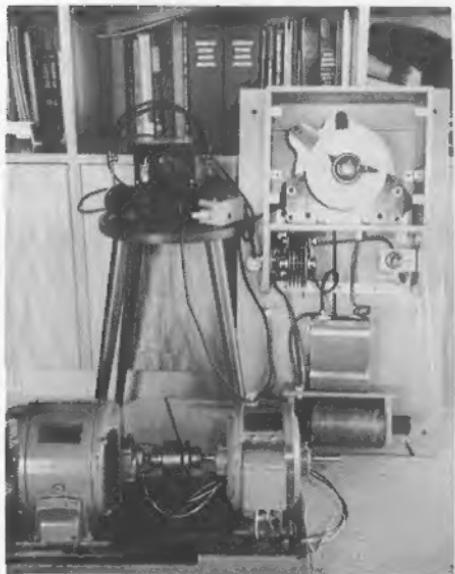
"VN" will not be remembered for his worldly goods - he had but little. Nor will you find radio patents to his credit or many accomplishments in Engineering Journals. However, he did leave something you will not find in print - a vital pioneer spirit that will always be remembered.....

### OLD TIMER'S NITE AND BANQUET

Ford Science Museum, Dearborn, Mich.  
Saturday, May 30th

The program is to be "tailored" Around all operators who have been in the game over 50 years. If you were an operator in 1914 or before, drop a note to Frank Davis at the Museum telling him about yourself.

RE-STORING CR-8 W5WI (Tulsa, Oklahoma) is back in the game after many years and starts out by re-storing a Grebe CR-8 which lacked a variometer. A loose coupler is Oren's next project. Like many others, W5WI finds the common parts such as sliders, switch points and binding posts are now collector's items.



CONTEMPORARY QUENCH GAP SPARK XMTR...

We have found that ships from several foreign nations with modern transmitting and receiving equipment in the area of 500 to 2000 kc. still occasionally have independent auxiliary equipment in operation of the old spark type.

The picture shows one of Swedish design with the covers removed. It is complete with 500 cycle alternator driven by a 65 volt series wound DC motor, enclosed key and a very small crystal receiving set. We saw one a few weeks ago on a very modern, completely air conditioned Swedish ship launched only three years ago !

The transmitter is about four feet by sixteen inches and at the lower end the open core transformer suggests 1910 or earlier. The spark condenser on top of the transmitter appears to be of the moulded type, a small lamp globe shunted by a two turn heavy conductor is in the ground lead to indicate output. The excellent design of the four section quench gap and the loading and tuning device in the upper part suggest 1918 to 1920. We obtained this little rig in like new condition. It is very interesting equipment with a beautiful tone all old timers will remember and, of course, the motor slows down each time the key is pushed, giving it a beautiful sound. The overall design and workmanship are a great credit to the Swedish people. We intend to dig as far as we can into the history of this equipment. (Frank Smith, W5VA/W5AI)

NU-290 - of the 1920's (Lou Hardy) is now W6LMO, ... congrats Lou !

#### SPARK TRANSMITTERS LEGAL ?

Quotes from letters re F.C.C. Proposal re-instituting use of spark transmitters as mentioned in last OTB:

....it is difficult to believe the F.C.C. would allow spark transmitters again.

....I operate only phone and am against any such proposal since spark signals would cause too much QRM. I don't know the code.

....I'm for it. I have all kinds of spark equipment which I could sell at a good profit, etc.,...

....this ruling would be detrimental to the collector since it would increase the market price of spark equipment.

....the technical part of the F.C.C. Amateur examination is too difficult for me. I'm sure I could pass the theory on a simple spark transmitter. I'm all for the proposal !

....does this mean that I have to junk my new Collins SSB xmtr for a Clapp-Eastham Hy-tone ?

(Ed. note - the A.W.A. takes a neutral stand on this proposal; however, we wish someone would tell us who started all this !)

#### A.R.R.L. NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York City, Aug. 21, 22 and 23

Huge exhibit of  
HISTORICAL WIRELESS EQUIPMENT  
and  
ACTUAL DEMONSTRATIONS

#### SPECIAL OLD TIMER'S PROGRAM

Saturday, Aug. 22

Sponsored by the  
OLD OLD TIMER'S CLUB

An opportunity for the old time amateur and commercial operator to get-together !

(More info re the program in the summer Bulletin)

HISTORY OF U.S. SIGNAL CORPS - is a book currently selling for only \$1.98 by Marboro Book Co., Varick St., N.Y.C. (Original price - \$4.00) The book is well illustrated and covers the period from 1861 thru 1961. Since the Signal Corps covers many fields - Telegraphy, Telephone, Photography and Aviation, the section devoted to Radio or Wireless is limited. Suggest you write Marboro before purchasing to be sure the book is still in stock.

## A WINTER STORY

by Ralph Yeandle, W2ETY  
(ex operator at WGY-2XAF-2XAD)

Many years ago it was fashionable in radio broadcasting to transmit special programs which originated at some remote point from the studio. Many of these were of a "stunt" nature and appealed only as a "first time" achievement. One such instance involved a pack transmitter strapped on the back of a famous ski jumper. It was hoped that a description by the skier himself might put the listener in the "driver's seat" so to speak.

The operators, with only one such transmitter, felt that several practice jumps were desirable to check out weight, balance and perhaps other aspects of the actual situation. Because of one transmitter, it was suggested that a quantity of loose salt in the pack be used to simulate transmitter weight.

Came time for the actual run and the salt was replaced by the transmitter. Of course by this time some snow had gotten in the pack and was combining with the remnants of salt and slowly soaking into the transmitter. The inevitable happened! As the skier started his descent, smoke billowed forth and at the apogee of the jump nuclear fission hit the back stretch; mustard plaster would have felt cooler.

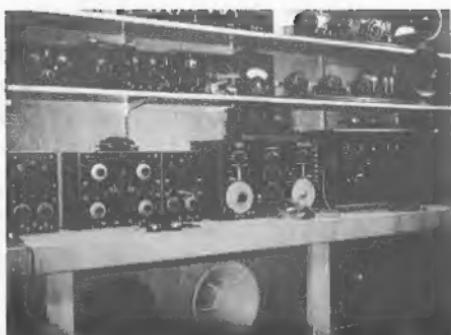
A perfect landing was made however, but as for the broadcast - "Conditions beyond our control make this special program an impossible one!"

## SILENT KEYS

Much has been written about these five pioneers. We either knew them personally or had friendly correspondence.

Sherwood Beutler, K2DG, ex-8AOB,  
8TH, W8IOW, W2QKX.  
Bill Drumney (New Orleans) "MS" in  
1906, with Marconi, UFCO, etc.  
George Rogers Former Manager of  
UFCO TRT station in Fla., etc.  
Dick Smith, WLHNO, ex-"DS", 2ANS  
W1AIO, WLBD, W2FDD, etc.  
Irving Vermilya, W1ZE, ex-1LHA,  
WCC, "VN", etc.,

UWT INFO WANTED - sometime ago while on a train enroute to New Orleans I met a man with only one arm. During the conversation I found out he was a former Secretary of UWT. Can anyone identify or tell me about this old United Wireless man? Frank Smith, W5VA,  
Box 840, Corpus Christi, Texas



CORNER OF EARL ENGLAND'S MUSEUM

The photo shows but a few of the fine receivers collected by Curly and May England out in Los Angeles.

Not shown is a large collection of receivers manufactured in the 1930's as well as an unusual display of early phonographs. New gear for the Englands is a Deforest D-10 Reflex, Kennedy 420, Kennedy 311, Fred Eisemann NR-20 and a McMurdo-Silver Masterpiece VI using 21 tubes and an 18" giant Jensen speaker. He also has a Masterpiece II and 5 Scott receivers!

Curly was originally VE3QL and has in recent years established himself as one of the top collectors on the West Coast - if you doubt it - stop in and look....

WIRELESS IN INDIA - Vu2GV, Secretary of the Radio Club in Bangalore, is interested in corresponding with anyone who has information on early radio (amateur or commercial) in India. He tells us the first broadcasting in India was in 1924 by the Madras Provincial Radio Club. The transmitter is preserved in the Madras Museum.

The first amateur journal in India was "RADIO" published by the Bengal Radio Club in 1925. Does anyone have copies?

G.V. Sulu, Vu2GV, P.O. Box 53  
Bangalore-1, India

RARE ROTARY GAP is the newest piece of equipment in Bill Traver's collection out in California. It is a Crocker-Wheeler and once used by Dr. Rodgers in his experiments with underground and underwater transmission. Another nice little item for Bill is a mechanical synchronous rectifier of the early 20's. Although quite a few of these rectifiers were manufactured, they are quite scarce today.

BILL DUBILIER is an old friend of Pete Rossmann. He tells us that Dubilier is now 75 and lives in Florida. Pete hopes to make a tape interview on this early pioneer.

## OLD TIME HAM-ADS

Members are entitled to one "ad" per Bulletin without charge. All material must be over 25 years old.

**WANTED** - a Wireless Speciality Circuit Driver. Looks like a Crosley "Pup" only has an ammeter and buzzer on top. Also by W.S. a Radiola Special 1 tube regen. receiver. Cash or trade. S.N. Blake, 186 Summer St., Andover, Mass.

100 Receivers to **TRADE** for what have you. Will SWAP wild! - you name it. No lists. Write for info. Bill Travers, 3225 Las Lomas, Pasadena, Calif.

**WANTED** - socket for round DeForest Audion. Vern Thompson, W9JWW, 1403 South Fourth St., Effingham, Ill.

**WANT** - loose coupler, 2 slide tuning coil, Morse sounder and relay, wireless books and magazines. Also looking for copy of "Phillip's Code". Gene Sedberry, 20<sup>th</sup> Chanticleer Lane, Hinsdale, Illinois

**SWAP** - rare magazines dating back to 1908. Want 1913 and 1914 "Electrical Experimenters". Ed Raser, W2ZI, 19 Blackwood Drive, Trenton, N.J.

**WANTED** - a VLF receiver - early type or modern. Bob Cobaugh, W2DTE, 29-29 213th St., Bayside, N.Y.

**FOR SALE** - 18 antique tubes: Deforest Ultraudion (Hudson filament), Myers "red head" audion, Royal Edisan Fleming Oscillation valve, 3 W.E. 239-A's, RCA U-199, 4 RCA 24A's, 2 Telefunken DRP triodes, Suddeutsche KTD triode, VT-1, NR6-B, RCA 552 and unknown diode. Best offer. Miss Jessie York, Box 130, Tannery Rd., Downsville, N.Y.

**SWAP** astronomical and photographic gear or will pay top price for Grebe, Paragon, DeForest or Marconi gear. Also want Gernsback booklets and Duck catalogs. Phil Weingarten, 67-61 Alderton St., Forest Hills 74, N.Y.

**SALE** - Colin B. Kennedy "Short-wave" receiver Type 281 with 2 stage audio amp. type 521 (excellent condition). National FBX, early Store-Boughten Super-het and books Bangay's "Prin. of Wireless Tele." (1917), Zenneck's 1915 "Wireless Telegraphy", Bucher's 1917 "Practical Wireless Telegraphy". Make offer. Frank Shannon, W3QR, Apt. 824, 1500 Mass. Ave., N.W. Washington 5, D.C.

**SWAP** - Radiolas II, III, VIII, AR-1300, Federal 110 and others for what have you? Want DeForest receivers and tubes and early encased condensers. Exchange lists. Floyd Lyons, Elks Club, 456 Post Street, San Francisco, Calif., 94102

**TRADE** - Have Navy W.E. CW-938 Transmitter/Receiver (WWI) and many replacement parts for same. Want early commercial gear of equal value - United or Marconi preferred. Need round bottom Leyden jars or other large condensers. R.S. Palmer, 17211 Second Ave., West, Bothell, Washington 98011

**NEED** UX-213 and UX-874 tubes and coil for Westinghouse RA Tuner. Will swap. John Baum, K2VZB, 969 Douglas Ave., L.I., New York

**SWAP** - need 2 white celluloid DeForest dials. What do you need? Jack Gray, W8JDV, 500 W. Church St., Mason, Ohio

**WANTED** - old call books 1914 to 1921, any or all 1923 to 1930. We need these Call Books at QCWA Executive Secretary Office. Can you help us? Ralph Barber, W2ZM, 244 Forest Ave., Locust Lawn, N.Y. 11560

**SWAP** - a large collection of early rare Western Electric tubes. Want W.E., DeForest and Arcturus tubes. Vern Thompson, W9JWW, 1403 S. 4th St., Effingham, Ill.

**NEED** - binders for QST and CQ magazines. Also looking for early ham receivers such as Hallicrafters, National, etc. Will swap.

Dave McKenzie, KØSVJ  
1200 West Euclid, Indianola, Iowa

**WANTED** - W.E. microphones and speakers; Amplion and temple speakers, RCA 104 and 105 speakers; W.E., ERPI, Baldwin and RCA phones; Leutz "Silver Ghost" of 1929-30; Victor Orthophonic and Columbia-Kolster phonographs, W.E. wax disc cutting heads; Stromberg-Carlson set having large cabinet with 2 lift lids and loop antenna. Curtiss Schafer, RFD 1, Newtown, Conn.

**WANT** - will pay good price for Navy type SE-1012 Compass receiver with 50 to 1000 meter range. Ed Raser, 19 Blackwood Drive, Trenton, N.J.

**FOR SALE** - QST's Sept. 1916 to Dec. 1927. 28 copies. Sold as lot only for \$150.00 H.W. Merideth, W5PQA, 3912 Anderson Ave., S.E. Albuquerque, New Mexico

**"THE EXAMINATION --"**

Moments never to be forgotten - we lifted this foto from the cover of a little publication titled "KEY KLIX" published by American Sales 35 years ago. The picture tells the story !

**HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPT** - One of the most interesting items in our club's archives is a handwritten letter by Dr. Lee De Forest on his 85th birthday to members of the Potomac Valley Radio Club. He was thanking the group for a giant "Happy Birthday" card originated at the 1958 A.R.R.L. National Convention and signed by thousands of hams.

The manuscript is doubly valuable because it is Dr. De Forest's last known communication to the amateur fraternity. We have another DeForest "original" in the archives which is equally valuable - a hand-written letter to A.W.A. member "Zip" Jones, dated June 20, 1922, sent from Berlin, Germany, where De Forest was doing research work. The letter was written complimenting Zip on an article he had published.

Ed Redington, W4ZM

**INTERESTING EXPERIENCES** ? Frank Whitmore, W2AAA, is compiling a series of actual stories experienced by old time radio men. If you had some unusual experience, were associated with a well known pioneer or station and can recall something of interest - drop Frank a line - it may be published..

Frank Whitmore, W2AAA, 223 W. Holly Avenue, Pitman, New Jersey

**EXPERIMENTAL WIRELESS** is the title of an interesting book just received from Randy Blodgett, WA2DEW/KV4CQ. Published in 1925 in England, it has over 1000 pages with hundreds of interesting pictures - mostly of amateur nature.

It is only lack of time which prevents me getting an OT crystal set "on the air" to compete in the club's old receiver DX contest. On the other hand, chasing a lot of BC stations has never had any great appeal. What does send me is to listen to the 500 KC ship band !

My second old radio set is an RADA which I got from Lou Rizoli, W1AAT. It was acquired particularly for ship listening and just to show what a single old 201-A can do (the 1st and 2nd stages did not work) this is what happen.

While on a job in Maine in 1960, I literally received hundreds of ship and coastal stations from Father's Point VCF to KLC in Galveston. An "arrangement" was made with the "op" of a Norwegian MV and he opened up with his spark transmitter ! It sounded great after a lapse over 30 years ! Many other ship sets also had a very "sparky" sound and it was easy to visualize from the various fists the straight bar key of the foreign vessels.

Nothing dramatic, no SOS calls, but consistent reception from Port Arthur to Cape Race every night on a one-tuber of 1920. Yours for the simple circuits !

Selwyn Blake, ex-1CPW

**LOST TUBE COLLECTION** - we've received several queries regarding the unusual tube collection illustrated in Mary Texanna Loomis book "Radio Theory and Operating" published in the mid '20s.

According to the book, the collection belonged to a Lt. W.A. Eaton, U.S.N. at the Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. and consists of over 30 rare tubes made prior to 1920 including several Fleming valves. Does anyone know of Lt. Eaton ? Is this collection in a museum - and if so - where ?

**NUMISMATIST AIDS WIRELESS HISTORIAN** - John Folwell of Rochester, N.Y. is an ardent coin collector. However, when on a recent visit to Portugal he was unable to resist the temptation to photograph an early spark transmitter in the Marine Museum for his friend W2CTA. The slide has been added to the collection of the A.W.A. The label on the display in the museum reads:

"Ducretet Transmitter"

This is the first transmitting station of wireless used in the Navy, installed in 1905, in the old practical school of torpedo and electricity, in the Valley of Zebra. Was used only for instruction of first radiotelegraph operators.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH CO.

by Walt Weber, K2EE, ex-8TM

The Federal Telephone and Telegraph Co. started in business before the first war manufacturing telephone and associated equipment. I worked for the company at this time installing telephones but not in later years when they started to make radio equipment.

The telephone business became quite competitive with the Bell System, which also had a telephone exchange in Buffalo, so shortly after the first war Federal turned to manufacturing radio equipment. Some of their first products were transformers, earphones, speakers, buzzers and the familiar Federal handmike (see illustration).

Their receivers were the best of the time - all hand made with the best material and construction methods. This with other factors, proved to be their ultimate downfall. Mass production by such companies as Crosley and Atwater-Kent undercut Federal prices and then a lawsuit with the Acme Apparatus Co. of Cambridge, Mass. (who manufactured the power units of their later models) finally placed the company in receivership in 1929.

The plant was located at 1708 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, N.Y., where they employed about 200 men. At this location they erected one of the first broadcast stations in the country - WGR. Typical of the era - it was breadboard and used an unique method to control the frequency. The station was later moved to the Statler Hotel and remains to this day a pioneer station.

Most of the chassis manufactured in the Elmwood plant were placed in cabinets at the Thomas Power Building on Niagara St. where old Thomas motor cars were made between the years 1925 and '26. Julian Layer was the manager of this plant.

The chief engineer of Federal was Lawrence Horle. The first assistant was Benedict French (8BVK) who worked in the laboratory. Other 'hams' working at the plant were Art Benzie (8FE) now W4FE, Elmer Odien (8BHQ) and George Sears who is now with a broadcasting station out in California.

Howard Seyse and Art Benzie tested the E-40 receivers. They used an unique method of CW radio transmission. While testing they would touch the oscillator condenser which threw the set out of oscillation. By sending backwards they could communicate with each other!

The Federal receiver is now a collector's prize. Their rugged and distinctive

**THE SECRET OF SUCCESS  
IN RADIO RECEIVING UNITS**  
**IN LIES IN THE EFFICIENCY OF THE VARIOUS  
PARTS**

**Federal** SCIENTIFICALLY DESIGNED  
MECHANICALLY CONSTRUCTED  
HIGHEST GRADE MATERIALS

**Federal** RIGIDLY INSPECTED THOROUGHLY  
TESTED AND  
FULLY GUARANTEED  
Universally Approved  
The Standard

**Federal STANDARD PARTS**  
are now available to those who desire to complete their sets.  
FOR SALE BY LEADING DEALERS  
FEDERAL TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH COMPANY  
MANUFACTURERS OF STANDARD RADIO EQUIPMENT  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK



style can be instantly recognized by the radio historian which bears tribute to the old "gang" who worked for Federal 40 years ago.

During this period, old timers Howard Seyse, W2KZ (8AG) and Ernest Roy, W2AX, (8RV) obtained a special experimental call 8XAK (8XAJ) and performed some unusual work including 5 meter mobile operation which may be the first in the country.

Most historians and collectors, however, think of Federal for the very fine and distinctive receivers they manufactured. The ultimate in battery series was the Model 61 using five 201-A's and one 200. The panel had 16 knobs including a rheostat for each tube!

The last models manufactured were the E-40 Arthoric series - a tuned RF job with 112-A output for speaker operation. This deluxe model also had a loop antenna. MARCONI MESSAGE FORMS, envelopes, etc., were received from Bob Palmer, W7RD. All told, there were 8 different pieces of early Marconi stationery. Very colorful and interesting reading - we plan to frame and place them in the club's museum.....

"LONE SCOUT MAGAZINE" - this old time magazine had some good fiction stories years ago. Typical is the Feb., 1919 issue which contained:

"When Duty Called" and "Saved by the Semaphore Code".....

Along the same line, there is a good series of books titled the "Ocean Wireless Boys" by Capt. Wilbur Lawton (Hurst & Co., 1914)....all nostalgic material for the bookshelf...

John Baum, K2VZB

HUGO GERNSBACH - the latest news item concerning this pioneer publisher and dispenser of early wireless "art" may be found in the March 6 issue of TIME magazine.

LONGWAVE OPERATION - Bob Cobough, W2DTE, wonders how the amateur would make out if they were assigned a frequency somewhere between 15 to 400 kc. ?

## PIONEER MEMBERS

### AUSTIN FLINT PARKHURST (Born 1885)

Radio Operator, U.S. Navy 1903-1907. One of the vessels he served on was the USS Iowa whose radio equipment consisted of a Slaby-Arco DC powered transmitter employing a mercury turbine interrupter in the primary of the power transformer. The receiver was a coherer with Morse tape recorder using paper.

Operator for the United Fruit Company (1908-1917) spending 18 months installing the original station on Swan Island (US), operator at WNU, New Orleans and Division Superintendent of the Radio Dept. of the United Fruit Co. in New York City.

April 6, 1917 - Nov. 1919, Lieutenant (j.g.) U.S. Naval Forces in France.

After leaving the Naval service - Radio Inspector in the 8th and 9th Districts at Detroit and Chicago. On April 7, 1923 he attended an ARRL Convention at Columbus, Ohio, where he issued many radio licenses. It was at this Convention he recalls meeting Messers K.B. Warner, R.H.G. Matthews, Clyde E. Darr and Fred Redding who initiated him into the Royal Order of the Wouff Hong.

For the next nine years he was Plant and Equipment Maintenance Engineer for the Crosley Radio organization including operating radio stations WLW and WSAI.

Following this he was Radio Engineer for the U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, for ten years, operating a chain of Radio Stations for the Forest Fire Protection Division on all Indian Reservations throughout the United States.

He completed his active career as an Electronics Engineer with the Bureau of Ships, Navy Dept., retiring in April 1957.

Austin is an Honorary Member of the A.W.A. and resides in Washington, D.C.



MARCONI MONUMENT

Various monuments and memorials have been erected all over the world to Marconi. Here is another one called to our attention by Ed Cummings. It is located in a relatively obscure spot - Roger William's Park, Providence, R.I.

Ed didn't tell us why the monument was erected at this site but here it is !

**NORDEN-HAUCK** Super Ten is a beautiful receiver sees Russ Worthy - but is a tricky one to align. Russ finds it acts more like a ten stage regenerative receiver !

#### VISITING HOURS

A.W.A. BARN MUSEUM, HOLCOMB, N.Y.

(25 miles southwest of Rochester)

Planning to visit the club's barn museum this year ? Better write to Bruce Kelley in advance for appointment. Best times are:

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

after 7:30 P.M.

May through October

Times to avoid are hamfest weekends when equipment is on display or holidays when the OM frequently goes to camp. Also stay clear of the last 2 weeks of August when much of the gear will be in transit or on exhibit at the A.R.R.L. National Convention in N.Y.C.

Plan to make your visit at least 3 to 4 hours - and even then you will not see all the thousands of items on display ! More info re the barn museum may be found in the Bulletin, p.6 Vol. 3, No. 4 or in the May, 1959 issue of QST.....

#### 17th ORIGINAL OT NITE ROUNDUP

Saturday, May 2, Trenton, New Jersey  
Stacey-Trent Hotel, 6:30 P.M.

Guest Speaker: Clarence Tusk

Co-founder A.R.R.L.

Afternoon conclave starts at 2 P.M.

(Write W2ZI for more info)

**DX'ER NOW COLLECTOR** - W9AKH over in Appleton, Wisconsin, has worked around 250 countries - but slowed down long enough recently to pick up a Federal 61 and some nice Brightons True Blue tubes. Strictly a CW man, he confesses, however, that he was on phone in 1928 with a modulated oscillator using a 201-A !

## MEMORABLE DATES

-- In this issue we give Feb. 12, 1931 at which time "Radio Vatican" HVJ went on the air for the first time.

The original transmitter was a single 10 KW. job installed by Guglielmo Marconi and assistants. Pope Pius XI and Secretary of State Pacelli (later to be Pius XII) with Marconi presided at the inauguration.

A 25 KW. shortwave transmitter was added in 1937 and additional high power components after the war. Father Antonio Stefanizzi (Doctorate in Physics, research at Fordham, etc.,) is now in charge of the huge installation. Transmissions are world wide and particularly looked forward to by many behind the Iron Curtain.

(Peter Rossmann)

"CANST THOU SEND LIGHTNING?" or the Telegraph Story in Code. This is the title of a 33 1/3 RPM recording covering the history of telegraphy - 32 minutes in Morse code and 10 minutes in voice narration. The 1964 Edition is now available and should be of interest to all wire men as well as amateur historians. For info write: James Graham, 5927 Dryden Drive, Mc Lean, Virginia (22101)

DYNERGY JEWEL BOX - one of the first commercial all-electric receivers can now be seen in Frank Pagano's collection. Frank tells us it is a TRF job (3 dials) using 201-Ab. Market release: 1924. Not many all electric sets commercially before this ?

VACATIONING - old timer John Haggerty dropped us a card recently from the British West Indies. John is another VLF enthusiast. Guess we have enough members now to form a "Longwave Listeners Club" !

PHOTO CARD - write to W2ZI, 19 Blackwood Dr., Trenton, N.J. and ask Ed for the large card which shows his historical collection with brief writeup.... good material for your album.

PROF. R.A. FESSENDEN - "Father of the Fathometer" is the title of a brief biography written by Bob Merriam, WLNTE, in a recent issue of the magazine called "Fishing Gazette".

FIRST DEMONSTRATION of cathode ray tube for TV reception (Kinescope) was given by Vladimir Zworykin at Rochester, N.Y., I.R.E. Meet, Nov. 18, 1929.....

WANTED - Hallicrafter Skyrider Marine Model S-22 receiver (4 band 16.2 to 2150 meters) Must work on all bands. Bud Fischer, 14 Mohawk Trail, Westfield, New Jersey

HONEYCOMB COILS - did you know the first machine to wind these tricky coils was developed by the Universal Winding Co. of Providence, R.I. which later became the Leesona Corp. ? The coils were all wound on a machine known as the No. 50 WINDING MACHINE which was developed to wind yarn in a self-supporting criss-cross pattern not requiring ends on the spools.

It so happened that this self-supporting feature (Leesona Patent) lend itself just fine for the high inductive coils so popular 40 years ago and Universal started the "Coto-Coil" Co. just for their manufacture !

Coto-Coil is still in business ( no longer a subsidiary of Leesona) and now making coils of all kinds for the radio and electrical industry. I worked for this organization for 26 years until retirement. Ed Cummings, ex-LWP

KENOTRON - trade name for G.E. rectifier, is derived from the Greek word "kenos" signifying "empty space" (vacuum) and "tron" meaning instrument.

PILOTTRON - G.E. triode, comes from the Greek word "pleion" meaning "more". A pilotron then is an "instrument" giving "more" or amplifying !

OMNIGRAPH RECEIVER is a rare breadboard receiver owned by Bill Hare (Barrie, Ontario, Canada). It uses a single DeForest audion and was manufactured by the old Omnigraph Co. on Hudson St., N.Y.C. Any one have dope on this receiver ?

W9AX NOW IN W6 LAND - Thom Mayes, W9AX, retiree from G.E., is now located in Saratoga, Calif. Thom has already located some unusual historical material concerning early commercial stations in the area which we plan to print in a future issue....

QCWA MEET - 38 QCWA members had the opportunity recently to see Jack Gray's old Clark receiver plus his Grebe film show. W8JDV will also again have his fine historical at the big Dayton Hamvention. (April 24-25)

## NEW GEAR

Laboratory Test Equipment - Vitro Corp. (Ted Duvall)

Rare Electrocardiograph machine -

Cornell University - K2AXE

Books and Printed Matter - W3YA, W7RD

Tubes - W9JWW

WANTED - "Radio Amateur News", August thru Dec. 1919 and "Radio News" Aug. and Sept. 1922 and all issues of 1923, 1924 and 1925. Thom Mayes, 21120 Sullivan Way, Saratoga, Calif.